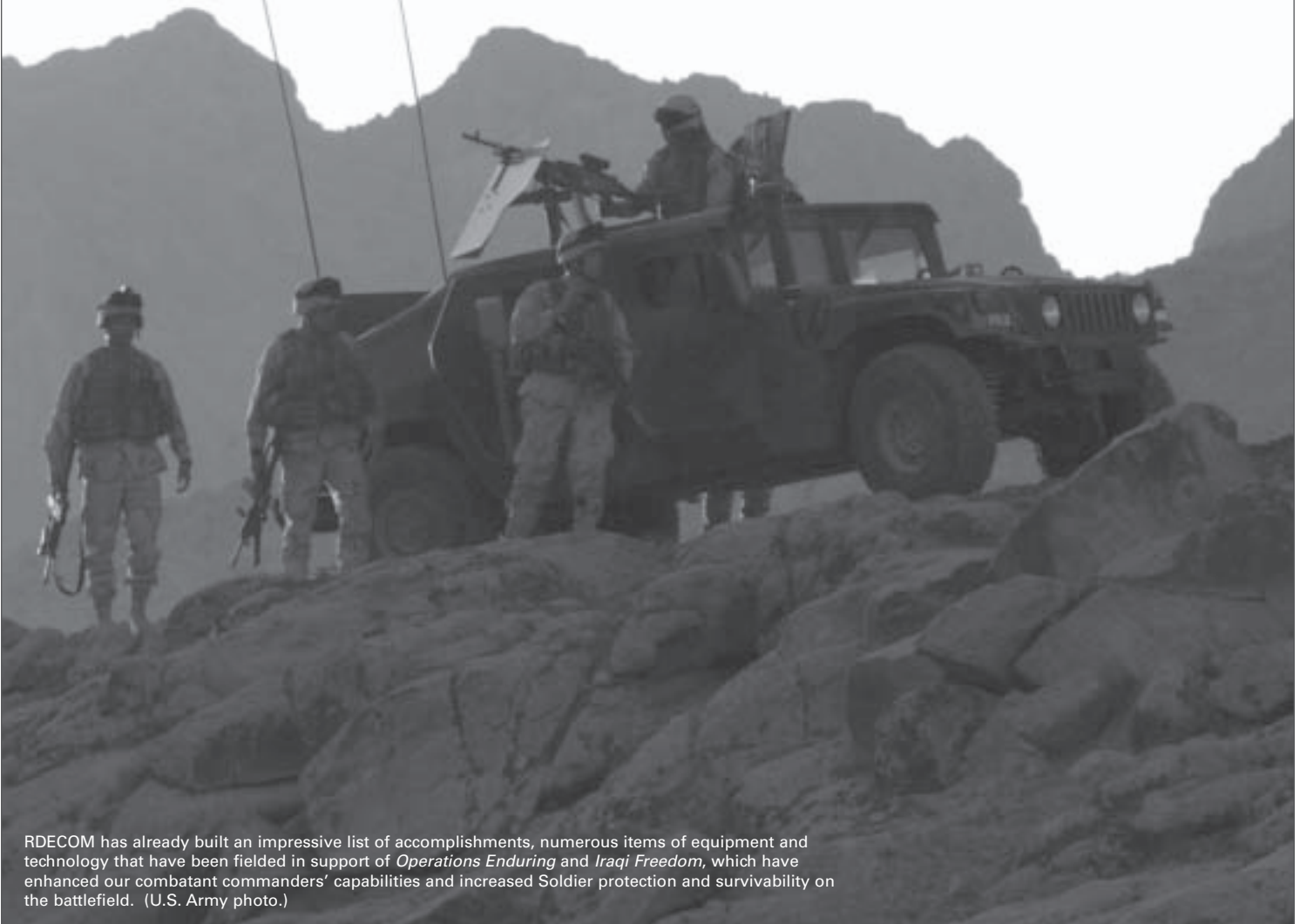


RDECOM –The Life Cycle Management Command's Strategic Partner

BG Roger A. Nadeau

The Army Materiel Command's (AMC's) Life-Cycle Management (LCM) initiative aligns the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) as the operational research and sustainment-engineering arm for the Life Cycle Management Commands (LCMCs). This creates a synergy that allows RDECOM to better prioritize technology development based on current and future warfighter needs.

By restructuring organizational relationships, the LCM initiative will better facilitate the maturation and transition of technologies to the program management offices (PMOs) and program executive offices (PEOs). Through the LCM initiative and formation of RDECOM, each LCMC will have access to the combined synergistic value of RDECOM at its disposal.



RDECOM has already built an impressive list of accomplishments, numerous items of equipment and technology that have been fielded in support of *Operations Enduring* and *Iraqi Freedom*, which have enhanced our combatant commanders' capabilities and increased Soldier protection and survivability on the battlefield. (U.S. Army photo.)

RDECOM is bringing together talent from the Army, other military services, international partners, industry and academia and creating a center of gravity for getting the right technology into the hands of warfighters more quickly.

In the past, major subordinate commands, including the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, Communications-Electronics Command and Aviation and Missile Command, were generally constrained by their own, individual stovepiped research and development (R&D) and engineering centers. Now, RDECOM can properly focus all Army R&D facilities to assist each LCMC as necessary, no longer limiting their R&D needs to a single center.

Since it was established as a provisional command in October 2002, RDECOM has moved independent organizations into an integrated command of interdependent organizations. Unlike the past, RDECOM continuously promotes and facilitates coordination and cooperation between a myriad of R&D assets to stay ahead of ever-changing technological advances, thus enhancing the LCMC concept.

RDECOM is focused on expanding the working relationships between Army elements, industry, academia, other military services, other government agencies and international partners to improve communication, coordination and integration of all available R&D and engineering data. The command established Memorandums of Understanding with the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation

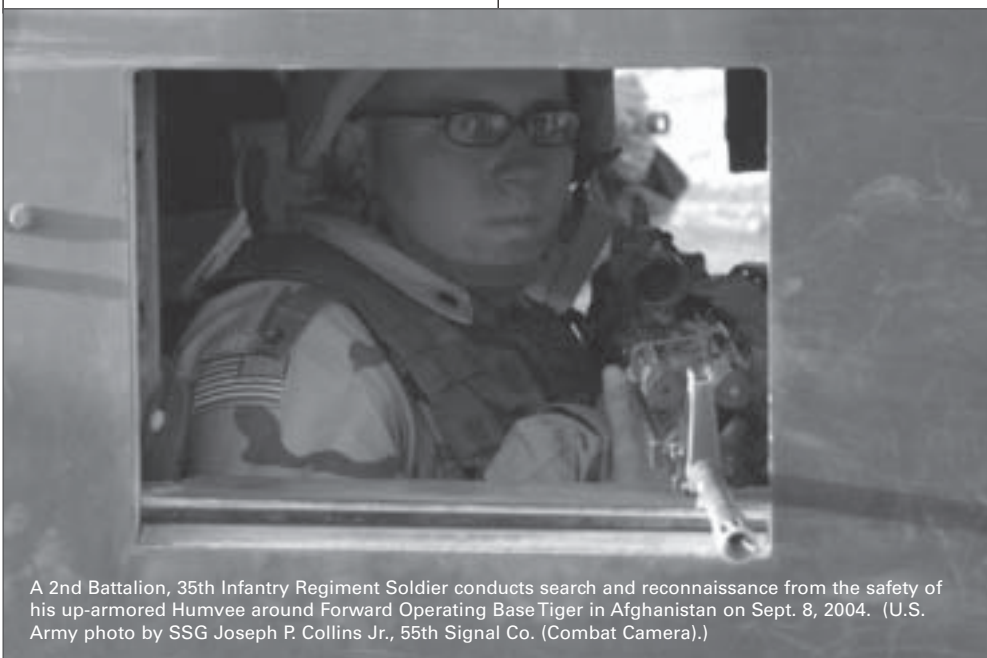
Command (ATEC) to increase coordination between these commands and the Army's science and technology (S&T) community. The relationship with TRADOC includes the full integration of doctrine, training, leadership, organization and warfighter considerations into the technology development and transition process. This will eliminate the current process that calls for requirements determination, system development and testing to happen sequentially. TRADOC schools will be afforded an opportunity, very early on, to be exposed to emerging technologies and better understand their potential, which will facilitate their decision process, from both a combat development perspective and requirements perspective.

Similarly, the relationship with ATEC will encourage comprehensive testing considerations to be integrated into the design of technology and technology programs to facilitate the rapid, effective

development and transition of technology to resolve critical warfighter requirements. RDECOM is also working to provide better tools and processes that shorten the decision cycle while maintaining the quality of decision making by the S&T community, thus preserving the quality and enhancing the timeliness of RDECOM's S&T products, R&D and engineering services. Modeling and Simulation and the Science and Technology Enterprise Management are two of these tools that will enhance collaborative efforts and improve communication internal and external to RDECOM.

The ability to efficiently and effectively pull together the expertise of all R&D and engineering centers to roadmap what the Army must do — today and in the future — will be RDECOM's trademark. Although a relatively new organization, RDECOM has already built an impressive list of accomplishments, numerous items of equipment and technology that have been fielded in support of *Operations Enduring* and *Iraqi Freedom*, which have enhanced our combatant commanders' capabilities and increased Soldier protection and survivability on the battlefield.

Since it was established as a provisional command in October 2002, RDECOM has moved independent organizations into an integrated command of interdependent organizations.



A 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment Soldier conducts search and reconnaissance from the safety of his up-armored Humvee around Forward Operating Base Tiger in Afghanistan on Sept. 8, 2004. (U.S. Army photo by SSG Joseph P. Collins Jr., 55th Signal Co. (Combat Camera).)

RDECOM is continuing to develop comprehensive support plans for each LCMC. The support will be enhanced through the implementation plans being developed by each LCMC. RDECOM will ensure the early and continuous integration of technology into a product's life cycle by fully exploiting its technology expertise, analytical capabilities and unparalleled collaboration with academia and national and international industry to provide cutting-edge technology for our Armed Forces. As the Army continues to transform, it must constantly procure and apply technological solutions from across the world to a wide spectrum of threats quickly. RDECOM is focused on giving the Army and Nation that capability.

RDECOM's activities will encompass a wide array of support to the LCMCs including technology development, S&T support, sustainment engineering, systems engineering, industrial base planning and independent analysis.

RDECOM's activities will encompass a wide array of support to the LCMCs including technology development, S&T support, sustainment engineering, systems engineering, industrial base planning and independent analysis.



RDECOM is creating a center of gravity for getting the right technology into the hands of warfighters quickly. (U.S. Navy photo by PH2 (NAC) David Mercil, Flight Combat Camera Group Pacific Command, Camp Pendleton, CA.)

RDECOM will continue to grow as the best R&D and engineering support source to its integrated customer base while streamlining the transition of technologies to PMOs and PEOs. RDECOM is the strategic and operational partner for the new LCMCs.

Together, RDECOM and the LCMCs will continue to enhance the entire process supporting our Soldiers on today's battlefields, while also developing the technology to support future full-spectrum battlefield dominance.

BG ROGER A. NADEAU is the Commanding General, RDECOM, Fort Belvoir, VA. He has a B.S. in laboratory animal science from the University of Rhode Island, an M.S. in business administration from the Florida Institute of Technology and an M.S. in natural resource and strategy from the National Defense University. His military education includes the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

